



Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 7000.15

July 8, 1998

USD(C)

SUBJECT: DoD Accountable Officials and Certifying Officers

References: (a) Sections 3321, 3325, 3527 and 3528 of title 31, United States Code
(b) Section 101(25) of title 37, United States Code
(c) DoD Regulation 7000.14-R, "DoD Financial Management Regulation,"
Volume 5, "Disbursing Policy and Procedures," May 1996

1. ISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive establishes policy and assigns responsibility for administration, management, and implementation for accountable officials and certifying officers within the Department of Defense under reference (a).

2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This Directive:

2.1. Applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Unified Combatant Commands, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies and the DoD Field Activities (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components").

2.2. Does not apply to Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentalities.

3. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

3.1. Certifying officers be appointed in accordance with Section 3325 of reference (a) and that certifying officers be pecuniarily liable for erroneous payments resulting from the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 3528 of reference (a).

3.2. Officials, other than certifying officers involved in authorizing a payment, who have been designated in writing as accountable officials, shall be pecuniarily liable for erroneous payments resulting from the negligent performance of their duties for the full amount of the erroneous payment up to one month's compensation. One month's compensation is one month's regular military compensation as defined in reference (b) in the case of military members and one-twelfth of annual pay in the case of civilian employees. For Reserve component personnel, one month's regular military compensation refers to the amount that would be received by the Service member if on active duty.

3.3. Reviewing officials be appointed to conduct pre- and post-payment reviews of payments certified by the certifying officer(s) in accordance with DoD 7000.14-R (reference (c)).

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) shall administer and manage this Directive and issue appropriate guidance for its implementation.

4.2. The Heads of the DoD Components shall:

4.2.1. Ensure this Directive and subsequent guidance issued by the Under Secretary for Defense (Comptroller) is adhered to in day-to-day operations and in the design, modification, and maintenance of their DoD Component's business processes and system(s).

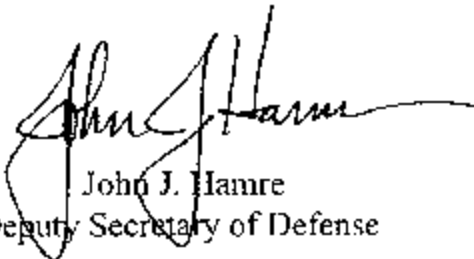
4.2.2. Exercise the Secretary's authority, pursuant to Section 3325 of 31 U.S.C. (reference (a)), to appoint certifying officer(s) and appoint reviewing official(s) as required to comply with this Directive, and are responsible for the oversight of certifying officers, reviewing officials, and accountable officials.

4.2.3. Provide training, including initial training to new certifying officers, reviewing officials, and accountable officials and periodic refresher training for existing

personnel in these capacities. In addition, shall ensure that periodic review(s) or inspection(s) of the actions of all accountable officials and certifying officers under their control to ensure compliance with established policies and procedures.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.



John J. Hamre
Deputy Secretary of Defense